

EVIDENCE

Every year around this time you will see an increase of interviews, articles, and documentaries dealing with the search for the real or historical Jesus. This should not surprise us, because the world and Satan will do everything within their power to down-play the facts of Jesus' Resurrection. Liberal church scholars, historians, archeologists, college professors, newspaper journalists and other supposed experts all offer their interpretations of the real Jesus. This is not anything new. In fact, this is old-hat; the Jesus Seminar has been spreading this liberal thinking propaganda for years. These enemies of Christ have deep pockets (money), wide coverage and a loud voice – both on radio and television.

Skeptics deny the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, and to support their rejection, they propose alternate theories to explain the empty tomb. But when the theories are examined they fall short – they fail to stand the test of historical records. There are many excellent historical works, as well as many modern works, on the subject of Christ's Resurrection, but the most compelling work of all is the Bible.

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Some who believed in Jesus after His death were skeptics during His life. James, the half-brother of Jesus, didn't buy the claim of Jesus' deity (John 7:5). But after the Resurrection, James became the leader of the Jerusalem church (Acts 21:17-18), and history records that James was stoned to death for his belief that Jesus was God. Something extraordinary had happened. Paul tells us that James saw Jesus alive after He died (1 Corinthians 15:7).

Consider Paul (Saul) himself, who hated Christians and everything they stood for. He saw them as a threat to his religion (Judaism), so he did all he could to have them arrested and executed (Acts 9:1-2). Then, on the road to Damascus, he converted to the very group (Christians) that he was trying to stamp out. What happened? An encounter with the risen Christ turned his life around (Acts 9:3-5).

Dr. Cornish said, "Something also transformed Jesus' disciples. Their first reaction to His arrest and crucifixion was to scatter, cowardly hiding from the authorities, fearing the same fate as their leader (John 20:19). He was dead and so were their dreams. But something soon compelled them to publicly preach Christ as God, returned from the dead – a shocking heresy among Jews who believed no one would be resurrected until the end of the world. The disciples faced arrest, torture and death for believing in Jesus, but not one recanted. Some people are willing to endure torture and death for a lie if they believe it's true. But no one willingly accepts pain and suffering and death for what they know is a lie, and the disciples were in a position to know if the Resurrection was false. They knew it was true, and it changed them forever."